

# Report to the Citizens of the City of New Bedford on the Year 2006

Published February 28, 2007



**Scott W. Lang, Mayor**

Report to the Citizens of New Bedford

By Mayor Scott W. Lang

Highlights of City Government Activities in

**2006**

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February 28, 2007

Dear Residents of New Bedford,

I have emphasized the theme of accountability and transparency in government during the mayoral campaign of 2005, in my inaugural address, and throughout the course of 2006. I am submitting this report to you to inform you of the progress that is being made by my Administration towards the objectives I have outlined. Charting and reporting this progress is an important and vital part of an open process. I firmly believe that an informed public becomes an engaged citizenry, and I continue to work to achieve this goal by conducting government work in a transparent manner with the participation of the people.

I set high aspirations in early 2006, working to

- Make our city safe again
- Prepare our children for the challenges of the future, in both education and in becoming productive citizens
- Create more and better job opportunities through economic development
- Restore the vitality of our neighborhoods
- Manage our city in the most effective and economical way
- Build a sense of community

These are not objectives that can be met in a single year, and as I continue to work towards them, I ask you to continue to join with me. I believe that we have made a solid start, but it is only a beginning. Not one of these milestones could have been achieved without the dedication and creativity of the citizens of this city, the city employees, and the elected officials. The work started and the work completed in 2006 is a collaboration of all who have the best interests of the City at heart.

I look forward to continued progress and success on all fronts in 2007. Here is an overview of what we have accomplished so far.

My best to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Lang  
Mayor

## **NEIGHBORHOODS & HOUSING – Restoring the Vitality of our Neighborhoods**

### **2006 Overview:**

In my Inaugural Address, I emphasized that city government, working in conjunction with our growing and ever strengthening neighborhood organizations, will remain focused upon the restoration of our city neighborhoods that are vital, appealing and safe. To advance this goal, I committed this Administration to working closely with our city residents to improve our neighborhoods and housing stock and to vigorously enforce our building and sanitary codes.

During the past year, we have initiated an aggressive abandoned property program (“Building A Better New Bedford”) combining a strategy consisting of the pursuit of delinquent owners (who are often absentee landlords), strict code enforcement, and financial incentives to new owners to promote reinvestment and revitalization. In addition, we have conducted a systematic infrastructure repair program, city-wide Operation Clean Sweep, supported new private housing developments to expand our housing stock, improved our parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, and began several new initiatives to provide more effective city services.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***City Services***

- Initiated broad street and sidewalk repair program:
  - 8.1 miles of roadway paved.
  - Neighborhood sidewalks repaired in 144 locations.
  - 5.7 miles of new sidewalks paved.
  - 2,675 potholes repaired.
  - 60 new trees planted.
  - 85 major water pipes installed throughout the City.
  - Major street repairs in 230 locations.
  - 10,209 miles of streets swept.
  - 73 fire hydrants repaired or replaced.
  - Fencing installed along Rural Cemetery on Dartmouth Street and around Custom House Square in downtown New Bedford.
- Hired contractor to seal cracks in roadways to prevent against potholes; claims for pothole damage to vehicles were down 80% over the previous year.

- Authorized Water Department to conduct a study of low water pressure in the Far North End, and began the City-performed water pressure project, which will be completed in 2007. It will provide enhanced water service to approximately 1,900 homes.
- The City took back responsibility for the maintenance and repair of streetlights in late 2006, with the goal of more efficient and cost-effective service. This consisted of hiring 2 electricians and leasing 2 bucket trucks. This unit of our Department of Public Works will provide flexibility to our City's neighborhood services and is important to providing lighted streets to aid public safety.
- With the leadership of Lynn Coish, Jerry Pinto, and Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, initiated Operation Clean Sweep, a citywide, ward-by-ward, volunteer-led neighborhood clean-up program. Hundreds of Operation Clean Sweep volunteers picked up almost 25,000 pounds of litter over the course of 2006, and Clean Sweep organizers spread their anti-littering campaign to 750 public school students throughout the City. This program will continue and expand in 2007.
- Started modified commercial trash pick up scheduled for the early evening. In late 2006, the City assumed responsibility for trash collection in the downtown and historic districts, as well as in the North End and South End business districts. The City also assumed citywide commercial cardboard collection and recycling. To do this, the City restored and returned 3 garbage trucks for use on the road.
- Expanded residential curbside recycling program to include cardboard.

#### ***Improvements to Parks and Recreational Opportunities***

- The City initiated a \$730,000 park improvement program funded by the Community Development Block Grant.
- Ben Rose Field was re-designated as a city-owned baseball/softball field. Environmental remediation work began in 2006 and will continue in Spring 2007.
- Renovated basketball courts, added picnic tables, and added bleachers to Roberto Clemente Park/Pires Park.
- Added new basketball courts, playground equipment, a walking path, and a multi-purpose field to Gomes School playground.
- Replaced traditional fencing at Hazelwood Park.
- Repaired bridge and remodeled senior center bathrooms at Buttonwood Park.
- Performed maintenance of senior center roof and bathrooms at Brooklawn Park.

- Replaced fences and built two new basketball courts with lights, benches, bleachers, and trash receptacles, renovated bathrooms, and rebuilt chimneys of senior center at Hazelwood Park.
- Renovated the warming house at Victory Park.
- The City assisted Veterans organizations with building the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Camara Memorial at Taber Park.

### ***Housing Development***

- New Housing Developments
  - Ashley Boulevard Condos (72 units): Designed, permitted, and under construction.
  - Wamsutta Mills (250 units – housing and museum): Designed and permitted.
  - Union Street Lofts (36 units): Opened and occupied.
  - Bristol Building (11 units): Designed, permitted, and under construction.
  - Acushnet Commons (18 units): Designed, permitted, and under construction.
  - Phillips Road (12 units): Designed, permitted, and under construction.
  - County Street (18 units): Condos currently renting.
  - Acushnet Avenue (36 units): Designed, permitted, and under construction.
- Successfully advocated, with leadership from Senator Mark Montigny, for Historic Tax Credits from Secretary of State William Galvin.
  - \$2,500,000 for the Wamsutta Mills project, 250 housing units and a museum.
  - \$950,000 for the Bristol Building, 11 units.
- HOME funding contributed to the construction of Whaler's Place, the conversion of a former mill into 75 units of affordable housing for the elderly (\$660,000).
- 27 first-time homebuyers received loans for the purchase of their first house, including down payment and closing cost assistance (\$102,075), rehabilitation of first time homebuyer properties (\$242,530), and GAP assistance (\$324,525).
- In partnership with the New Bedford Housing Authority, 14 units of affordable rental housing are in development on Mill Street (\$687,700), and St. Anne's Rectory on Ruth Street is being rehabilitated for affordable housing (\$374,700).

### ***Neighborhood Improvements***

- Initiated strategically important abandoned property program, "Building a Better New Bedford," a comprehensive initiative to address the problem of vacant and

unsafe residential properties. Consisting of strict code enforcement, grant funds and low interest loans to rehabilitate properties, and utilization of the Attorney General's receivership program, the program has achieved success in its first year.

- A Housing Task Force, consisting of representatives of several City departments and a citizen's advisory committee, was established to develop strategies to deal with problem properties throughout New Bedford.
- "Building a Better New Bedford" targeted 4 severely distressed properties for demolition- 56 Cove Street, 721 S. First Street, 1537 Acushnet Avenue, and 521 Purchase Street. Demolition will occur in Spring 2007.
- Through an aggressive tax-taking process for tax-delinquent property, the City reclaimed a total of 35 of the targeted properties. Sixteen properties have been sold and 5 properties are being renovated or pending sale, including 115 Summer Street, 34 Viall Street, and One Washington Square.
- Housing and Community Development held a Landlord Training Seminar, attended by over 120 New Bedford landlords, to inform them of their responsibilities and the resources available to them.
- The City's Community Development Block Grant funded the repair of almost 2.5 miles of road in low-moderate income neighborhoods.
- Community Development Block Grant funds allowed 25 public service agencies to offer summer recreation programs, programs for seniors, youth, and people with disabilities, counseling services, immigrants assistance, and domestic violence assistance (\$484,980).
- 42 housing units were improved, de-leaded, or rehabilitated (\$307,411), and 60 rental units were renovated (\$1,532,827).
- 25 businesses received storefront improvement funds (\$50,000), 69 start-up businesses received technical assistance from neighborhood business associations (\$30,000).

### ***Environmental Remediation***

- Conducted air and soil sampling at Keith Middle School, New Bedford High School, and the surrounding campuses to ensure their safety for students, faculty, staff, and the greater New Bedford community. Performed environmental remediation on the Keith Middle School site, ensuring compliance with remediation plan completion.
- Prepared and/or performed environmental assessment and remediation efforts on the former Doyle Square Service Station, former Reliable Truss site, Fairhaven

Mills Lots 167 and 262, Ben Rose Field, Camara Field, Elco Dress, the Polyply site, Payne Cutlery, Shawmut Avenue Landfill, and Aerovox.

- Applied for \$400,000 in Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup grants from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Awarded \$8,000,000 by the EPA in a Cooperative Agreement for Aerovox Demolition. The scope of this project is still in negotiations with the EPA. The City maintains that all contaminated material must be removed from the site.
- Awarded \$55,660 by Mass Development for priority Brownfields projects; New Bedford may be eligible for up to \$2,000,000 for remediation.

### ***Human Services***

- Through Emergency Shelter Grant fund assistance, over 1,300 city residents were offered services such as counseling, rental or utility assistance to prevent homelessness, outreach to the elderly, furniture vouchers, veteran's assistance, and rehabilitative services, provided by 9 local nonprofits.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department assisted over 300 New Bedford residents from the senior and immigrant communities.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department provided educational programming to over 2,000 youth through Invest-In-Kids, Martin Luther King Day, the Youth Summit, and Cool Nights.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department assisted over 400 constituents with neighborhood problems and activities.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department provided snow removal and garden clean-ups to 45 persons with disabilities.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department provided beginning ESOL classes to 20 students and their families.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department hosted a Portuguese Elder Conference of 175 seniors.
- The Recreation Department provided summer programs for 400 youth at Fort Taber.
- The Neighborhood and Human Services Department provided after-school programming for 160 youth.



- The City's Neighborhood and Human Services Department brought in or worked collaboratively to bring in \$2,732,530 in grant funding during 2006, paying for mentoring programs, summer food service programs for youth, summer jobs, drug free community programs, anti-violence initiatives, and elder services.
- The Health Department received \$77,516 in grant funding through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Tobacco Control Program Grant.
- The Veterans Services Department provided services to several hundred clients, and transported 809 clients to the VA Medical Center in Rhode Island, in 2006.
- The Veterans' Services Department has made outreach efforts to 92 veterans who recently returned from Afghanistan or Iraq; 31 have been recognized by the City Council.
- The Exercise Tiger Tank Memorial was moved to Fort Taber Park.
- With the assistance of the City Council and the leadership of Councilors Alves, Morad, Pimental, and Lawrence, several veterans' memorials were rededicated with public ceremonies throughout the City.
- The PFC Rene Poitras Memorial was rededicated with a flagpole at Riverside Park in June 2006.
- The National Guard Memorial Square on Kempton and North Streets was rededicated in September of 2006.
- The SSG Joseph Camara Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans "Welcome Home" Memorial were dedicated at Ft. Taber Park in September of 2006.
- The Canadian Veterans of WWII Memorial at Buttonwood Park was rededicated in November of 2006.

### *Library*

- New Bedford Public Libraries received 7,851 visits per week, or 406,380 visits in 2006.
- The Library was certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and did not need to apply for a waiver in order to receive state aid.
- The library system received \$179,410.82 in grant money from public and private sources to pay for books for the children's collection, sponsor a summer reading program, and supplement the library system's annual budget and pay off bonds used for renovation.

- The new Bookmobile, designed specifically for New Bedford, was put on the road for active service in April of 2006 and formally dedicated in July of 2006. Equipped with a satellite communications system and handicapped accessible, the Bookmobile brings library books into the neighborhoods.
- The Summer Reading Program, sponsored by Slades Ferry Bank and Dominos Pizza, engaged youth throughout the City in recreational reading activity.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT – Managing our City in the Most Effective and Economical Way**

### **2006 Overview:**

Upon assuming office in January 2006, and as we further discovered throughout the year, my Administration needed to confront some serious concerns affecting the stability of the City's financial position: a looming deficit for FY '06, the failure to appropriately bond to meet the capping cost requirements of the rail yard, operating deficit for the Harbor Development Commission, and inappropriate financial expenditures without the required preceding financial commitments in place. With these challenges clearly before us, I committed to restoring the city's financial integrity and to instituting financial procedures and systems that would enable us to deliver city services in the most cost-effective manner. In doing so, we would demand efficiency and scrutinize every city expense to constantly assess the value added to the city through the expenditures.

My objectives in managing the City's finances have been:

- To encourage cost-saving ideas and to seek innovative ways to reduce the burden upon City taxpayers.
- To not enter into financial obligations without necessary and binding commitments to support them.
- To initiate a comprehensive city building maintenance program.
- To ensure that all expenditures met statutory requirements and all Department of Revenue oversight requirements .

Over the past year, we have successfully addressed the initial financial problems that immediately faced this administration, resolved collective bargaining agreements with city employee unions at a reasonable cost, reduced a projected FY '06 budget deficit, obtained additional state funding for the final cost of the Keith Middle School at a rate of 90%, and worked closely with the State Department of Revenue to initiate long-needed financial management system improvements.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

- City's bond rating was increased to an A3 rating from a Baa1 rating by Moody's Investors Service, affecting a total of \$90.6m of long-term debt, saving the tax payers \$200,000 in future interest costs in just one bond and band offering. The future savings will be in millions of dollars. This is the first time in thirty-seven years the City has achieved this rating.
- New Bedford obtained the State's commitment to pay up to \$93 million for Keith Middle School construction and contamination remediation for Keith and New Bedford High School campuses.

- Initiated a \$12.4 million Railroad Bond Bill with the State Legislature. Championed by our local legislative delegation, including State Senator Mark Montigny and State Representatives Antonio F. D. Cabral, Stephen R. Canessa, Robert M. Koczera, and John F. Quinn, the Bill has been adopted and signed by the Governor. This will allow the City to pay vendors for work done on the project and will restore over \$5 million to the City for funds inappropriately spent from General Revenue by the former administration.
- The City obtained the State Department of Revenue review of New Bedford's financial management systems, policies and procedures. The DOR presented a report citing 25 recommendations. The City and the DOR will be reviewing system improvements on a quarterly basis. We have already initiated many of the Report's recommendations. For example, the restructuring of neighborhood assessments (#22) was completed and accepted by the DOR in time for 2007 revaluation.
- Conducted audit of the Harbor Development Commission.
- An audit of the Airport Enterprise Fund and the Redevelopment Authority will be completed in 2007.
- In 2006, contract agreements were reached with the police union, the fire union, the municipal employees union (AFSME), and the teachers union.
- Established a balanced budget for FY '07.
- Presented \$265 million city budget for FY '07, an increase of only 2.78% over the previous year.
- Due to inaccuracy of City financial reports, ordered a forensic audit of city books in order to certify free cash.
- Sewer rates increased by only 8.5%, half of the requested increase. This funded the wastewater operating budget and current debt commitment of \$5.2 million, and is projected to generate the revenue to meet the FY 07 budget of \$17.25 million. Water rates increased by only 15%, half of the requested increase. This funded the water department's operating budget and will fund an \$8 million capital improvement project (replacing 35,000 Linear Feet of pipe in the City's West End). The combined rate increase averaged \$35/year. Sewer and water rate increases had been requested by the Infrastructure Department over the past several years, in order to fulfill the responsibility of completing court-mandated projects. In 2006, in order to provide necessary additional funding, a reasonable increase was enacted.

- In 2006 the City issued an RFP for energy purchase. By accepting the response from ConEd Solutions to an RFP for electricity in May 2006, the City will save at least \$420,000 annually.
- City has taken 35 tax-delinquent properties, worth over \$4.5m collectively, and recovered \$2.5 million in back taxes.
- City developed a plan for City Hall improvements and capital renovations including renovations to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd floors. The City has applied for a city hall maintenance grant.
- The Southeast Digital Parcel File Development Grant was awarded to the City in the amount of \$30,000, used to update parcel information in our geographical information system to meet standards established by the state's Geographic Information Systems division. This information was utilized by the Assessor's Office in the appraisal of property during 2006, allowing for enhanced accuracy and efficiency.
- The City began development of database of City-owned properties and began process of developing master leases, contracts, and licenses.
- The City Solicitor's Office began the process by which the New Bedford Code of Ordinances will be posted on the City's website.
- Revised city ordinances to conform to Massachusetts General Law 30B to permit the disposition and acquisition of City property through Requests for Proposals. This work was a cooperative effort with the City Council.
- Revised Tax Increment Financing guidelines to establish clearer standards for review.
- The Traffic Department increased revenue generated through enforcement of parking statutes by almost \$400,000; implemented effective holiday parking program to encourage shopping downtown; replaced mechanical parking meters with electronic meters for enhanced reliability; and successfully encouraged downtown companies to utilize parking garages, resulting in increased occupancy at both the Elm Street garage and the Zeiterion garage.

## **CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY – Making our City Safe Again**

### **2006 Overview:**

In my Inaugural Address, I stated “our city must become, and have the reputation as a safe city once again. To achieve this, we will lead a full-scale, comprehensive effort to reduce crime in our city and make our neighborhoods safe.”

This is a constant challenge and the City must remain constantly vigilant to increase our effectiveness in preventing the occurrence of crime and promoting our ability to respond.

In January 2006, I outlined the following objectives for my administration:

- Re-open North End and South End police stations.
- Develop a coordinated/cooperative effort among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Provide our local police with best available tools and equipment.
- Establish strong working relationships with our neighborhoods.

Over the past year, we have made significant progress in enhancing the City’s ability to provide the people of New Bedford with a stronger sense of safety and security.

We have undertaken initiatives to provide a stronger and closer police community presence for our neighborhoods by re-opening the North and South End Police Stations, established new leadership in our Police Department, worked to establish a close and strongly coordinated effort among our various law enforcement agencies and provided our local police department with the tools and resources it needs to strengthen its public safety protection capability.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***Police Department***

##### ***Increased Police Activity***

- The Police Department received 93,306 calls for service in 2006 (or 255.6 calls per day), of which 23,533 yielded reports, resulting in 6,121 arrests.
- Arrests by the Police Department in 2006 increased 13.5% over 2005.
- From 2005 to 2006, the homicide rate decreased from 9 to 7, during 6 incidents: 3 by handgun, 2 stabbings, and 2 by semi-automatic rifle.

- The new Street Gang Unit made 428 arrests.
- The Narcotics Unit made 642 arrests in 2006, an increase from 480 arrests in 2005. This is an increase of 34%.
- In 2006, the Narcotics Unit executed 135 search warrants, an increase of 85% over the previous year's warrant execution total of 73.
- The Narcotics Unit seized 21 firearms, and increase of 23% over the previous year's seizure of 8 firearms.
- The Narcotics Unit seized \$296,000, an increase of 150% over the previous year's total of \$118,000 cash seized.
- Major firearm seizures were achieved in 2006, resulting in the removal of shotguns, semi-automatic pistols, and handguns from city streets. In 2006, New Bedford officers seized 65 firearms.

#### ***Technical Improvements in the Police Department***

- Station computer systems were upgraded, allowing for faster access to the centralized database. Further, Mobile Data Terminals in the cruisers allow for remote access to Registry of Motor Vehicle and National Crime Information Center databases.
- The creation of municipal fiber optic communications network to link police stations as well as all city buildings has commenced, allowing for high-speed data communications capabilities between buildings.
- The City of New Bedford signed a memorandum of understanding with the New Bedford Housing Authority allowing the New Bedford Police Department to access its surveillance cameras throughout the City and integrate City surveillance cameras to the Housing Authority surveillance system.

#### ***Promotions to Leadership Positions***

- Conducted an open public process for selection and appointment of a new Police Chief and 2 new Deputy Chiefs. Several other promotions were made to fill leadership positions, including the positions of captain (1), lieutenant (7), and sergeant (11).
- Nineteen men and women were sworn in as new New Bedford police officers during 2006.

#### ***Creating Law Enforcement Alliances.***

- The City worked with Attorney General Tom Reilly, who assigned an Assistant Attorney General to work with the New Bedford Police Department, only the second such assignment in the state, as part of a Federal/State/Municipal task force. Attorney General Martha Coakley has indicated a commitment to continuing this partnership.
- The City worked with District Attorney Paul Walsh, who assigned an Assistant District Attorney to work on neighborhood violence issues. District Attorney Samuel Sutter has expressed his commitment to maintaining this partnership to reduce violence in our neighborhoods.
- Formed the New Bedford/Fairhaven Port Security Subcommittee as part of a United States Coast Guard initiative to coordinate maritime security efforts.
- Worked with the FBI, the DEA, the Massachusetts State Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and ICE to coordinate an anti-gang unit to curtail gang activity in the City.

### ***Community Alliances***

- The Police Department continues to place an emphasis on community outreach, with high attendance at Citizens Police Academies and the production of *Behind the Badge*, a public access show profiling officers from different departments and following them as they go through a normal day. In a program funded through a grant from the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, the Police Athletic League coached 80 New Bedford youth in three games per week.
- The New Bedford Police Department, in collaboration with several other Bristol County police departments, social service agencies, and non-profits, initiated the Greater New Bedford High At-Risk Response Team. GNB HART, established in the summer of 2006, changes the way in which victims at high risk of repeat domestic violence are protected within the system; rather than relocate the victim to shelters located throughout the Commonwealth, the Team seeks to protect the victim in her own home until the perpetrator is prosecuted and incarcerated.
- The New Bedford Licensing Board, the New Bedford Police Department, and the Substance Abuse Task Force worked together to curtail underage alcohol consumption. Using young undercover police cadets, establishments licensed to sell alcohol were tested for compliance with state law requiring identification checks. Those establishments found to be in violation were required to participate in the New Bedford Substance Abuse Task Force educational program "Sticker Shock- Don't Serve Teens."

### ***New Laws***



- Testified before the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security regarding the creation of tougher gun laws and requesting funding for security improvements, such as security cameras in public areas. Since the hearing, the Chair of the Committee, Senator Jarrett Barrios, has filed “An Act Regarding the Prevention of Illegal Gun Trafficking and Gun Violence Among Youth in the Commonwealth,” which has my full support. I will continue to work with the state legislature to encourage the passage of this bill and pursue all opportunities for funding for public safety initiatives.
- Requested local legislative delegation to advance legislation for statewide ban on sale of military style weapons. Sponsored by Senator Mark Montigny and Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral, “An Act Relative to Gun Use” bans military style weapons and increases penalties for the use of a firearm in the commission of an assault. This bill will be heard during the current legislative session.
- Thanks to the lead work of Representative Stephen Canessa and lobbying by Phyllis Lopes, the state legislature passed an anti-gang bill, resulting in New Bedford receiving a \$1,000,000 Shannon Anti-Gang Grant from the State (3<sup>rd</sup> highest award in the Commonwealth) for anti-gang initiatives. This money, distributed within New Bedford after an open process in which all interested community organizations were invited to participate and apply for program funding, has been used to fund 19 violence prevention and suppression programs throughout all neighborhoods of the city. The H.O.P.E. Collaborative, as the group is called, meets regularly to discuss best practices and share information.
- In 2006, the police department received 16 grants totaling \$2,068,120, including the Shannon Grant, funding such programs as community policing initiatives to bullet-proof vests for officers to keeping city schools safe and drug-free.
- Created Port Security Unit to oversee security at the harbor. This unit, which has been well received by waterfront business owners and workers, is a specialized 4-member team highly trained in maritime maneuvers.
- Secured a 26’ Boston Whaler from Government Services for use by the New Bedford Police Department Harbor Patrol. This vessel will now be outfitted for use.
- The Detective Division has placed a new emphasis on pursuing cold cases. When new information on a cold case is provided to the police department, that information is promptly investigated and the case is re-evaluated in conjunction with the appropriate prosecutorial agency.
- In coordination with the City’s Building Department, the Police Department has accelerated enforcement of public nuisance issues (litter, mini-motorcycles with license, graffiti, open alcohol containers, noise ordinance).

***Increased Police Presence in the Community through Decentralization***

- Re-opened South End (January) and North End (March) police sub-stations , providing quicker police response times to calls for service. Police Station 3 was remodeled to provide a functional and professional space for the Department.
- Converted space at the New Bedford Airport for airport security and a K-9 unit police substation.

***Fire Department******Fire Department Activity***

- The New Bedford Fire Department responded to 11,015 calls in 2006, or 30 calls per day.

***Enhanced Technology***

- With the installation of the Zetron Fire Alarm dispatch system in stations throughout the City, made possible through a federal Fireact Grant, response times improved significantly. This same grant also provided for new air recovery systems for each station, improving health and safety for our firefighters.
- Returned Engine 8 to North End Acushnet Avenue Fire Station on July 30, after an absence of over three years in a historically high-response area. Within 2 minutes of its return, Engine 8 responded to its first call, a medical emergency. Throughout the course of the year, Engine 8 responded to 931 calls, often the first engine to reach the scene. Engine 8 also served as the second scheduled engine company on the scene in many instances, improving firefighter safety.

***Promotions***

- Eighteen new fire fighters were hired in July, and over the course of the year there were nine department promotions, including the positions of Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.
- Renovated and/or repaired Fire Stations 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11; including repairs or replacements to control rooms, windows, boilers, roofs, garage doors, floors, and radiators.

## ***EMS***

### ***EMS Activity***

- EMS responded to 11,452 calls for emergency assistance in 2006, or 31.4 calls per day.

### ***Building Partnerships***

- EMS established a Tactical Paramedic Team to provide close support to the Police Special Reaction Team.
- Over 1,000 people, including employees from many city departments, were trained and certified in first aid and CPR.
- Conducted departmental Diversity and Sensitivity Awareness training at the Public Safety Training Academy, attended by 40 Emergency Medical Technicians from New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and Dartmouth.

### ***Improvements in Technology***

- New Bedford's Emergency Medical Service obtained cutting edge equipment, including the Autopulse System, an external cardiac support pump to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest. This device is five times more effective than manual CPR, and New Bedford was the first in the state to utilize the device. EMS also trained our paramedics in the use of the interosseous drill and upgraded over 100 automated external defibrillators, resulting in more in service in New Bedford than in any other comparably sized city in New England.

### ***Emergency Management***

- New Bedford's Emergency Management Department received a \$12,000 Local Preparedness Grant, used to upgrade radio communications equipment in the City's Emergency Operations Center, as well as to purchase equipment for the Mobile Command Center.
- New Bedford participated in the formation of the SouthCoast Emergency Planning Partnership, to coordinate planning, response, and recovery efforts from natural and man-made emergencies and disasters affecting the SouthCoast region.
- The SEPP formed the Greater New Bedford Medical Reserve Corps, charged with coordinating volunteer services with public safety response in the event of emergencies. This group is now federally recognized by the Office of the Surgeon General, and is sharing grant money totaling over \$285,000 for its operations. Successfully held first Emergency Dispensing Site Drill.

**STATS for New Bedford Police Department  
2002-2006**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Murder</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Assault</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>445</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>941</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>1841</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>1303</b>
<b>Auto</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>593</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4148</b>	<b>4037</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>3375</b>	<b>3660</b>

Preliminary data; subject to audit.

## **EDUCATION – Preparing our Children for the Challenges of the Future**

### **2006 Overview:**

In my Inaugural Address, I stated “In order to have aspirations of competing in the economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must prepare our children for the educational challenges they will face. We must be committed to making our education system one of the very best in the State once again.” I committed my administration to working closely with our School Department, School Committee, our teachers and the parents of our students to constantly find ways to make our schools an enjoyable rewarding and enriching experience.

I outlined the following objectives at that time:

- Major effort to reduce drop-out rate.
- Find ways to make our schools a rewarding learning experience.
- Make our schools the hub of our neighborhoods.
- Open schools for after school and community activities.
- Provide additional summer programs.

During 2006, we have worked hard to complete the construction of Keith Middle School in a way that ensures the safety of our students and teachers, initiated an effort to promote public education as a rewarding and enjoyable experience and address our drop-out problem, raised serious concerns about the necessity of modifying the State’s MCAS graduation requirement, and opened direct lines of communication with students and teachers in our City school system.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives**

#### ***Educating the Youth of New Bedford***

- New Bedford Public Schools had 13,762 enrolled students in 2006.
- 3,321 students attended 4 high schools or high school-level programs: New Bedford High School, West Side High School, Alternative Regional Education, Charter High School.
- 3,045 students attend 6 middle schools or middle school programs: Global Learning Charter, Keith Jr. High School, Normandin Jr. High School, Roosevelt Middle School, West Side Jr. High School, Alternative Regional Education.
- 7,396 students attended 23 elementary schools: Ashley, Brooks, Campbell, Carney, Congdon, Devalles, Dunbar, Gomes, Hannigan, Hathaway, Hayden-

MacFadden, Kempton, Lincoln, Pacheco, Ottiwell, Parker, Phillips Avenue, Pulaski, Rodman, Swift, Taylor, Winslow, and Charter.

- The School Department provided special education services to 2,769 students.
- The School Department consists of 2,342 teachers, administrators, and staff.
- Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School enrolled 1,995 students, 1,548 of whom are New Bedford residents.

### ***Confronting Financial Challenges***

- Worked with Superintendent Michael Longo and New Bedford School Committee to resolve \$1.5 million deficit in Fiscal Year 2006 Budget.
- Completed construction of the Keith Middle School project, delaying its opening until the site was determined to be environmentally safe for students, faculty, staff, and the larger community. Upon completion of soil sampling and independent environmental review, the school was successfully opened in December.
- Worked with Treasurer Timothy Cahill, Katherine Craven, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority and our state legislators Senator Mark C. Montigny, Senator Joan Menard, Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral, Representative Robert Koczera, Representative John Quinn, Representative Stephen Canessa, Representative William Straus, Representative Michael Rodrigues, Representative Robert Correia, Representative David Sullivan, and Representative Patricia Haddad, Chair of the Joint Committee on Education, to create a program under which the state will fund 90% of the total cost of the Keith Middle School construction and cleanup (up to \$103 million), reducing the local burden to 10% of the total cost. This agreement was approved by the Governor's Office and the New Bedford City Council.
- The New Bedford Public School system continues to offer full-day kindergarten despite a restrictive budget, which is rare in comparable urban settings.
- In 2006, New Bedford Public Schools received \$21,072,212 in grant funding.

### ***Focusing on Children***

- The School Department notified parents of available assistance to improve family interaction with troubled children.
- I visited and spoke at every elementary school, as well as every middle school and all three high schools, to encourage both reading and personal safety. I met

thousands of New Bedford students and hundreds of teachers and administrators during these visits.

- Initiated new Summer Stipend Program under which 160 youth were employed by public and private entities. The program was funded through contributions from the private sector and state grants, including a \$10,000 grant from Secretary of State William Francis Galvin that employed youth to increase voter registration and education in New Bedford.

### ***Confronting Educational Challenges***

- The New Bedford School Committee initiated an effort for high school seniors who met all local graduation requirements but failed the MCAS to receive General High School diplomas. After substantive debate on the issue, the School Committee agreed to issue Certificates of Achievement. As a result of the School Committee's position on the MCAS, the City received awards from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and Citizens for Public Schools for advocacy on behalf of MCAS reform. The MCAS debate continues throughout the state.
- The School Department established a concentrated summer MCAS remedial program funded through contributions from the private sector. Twenty-four students attended, who were provided with transportation, a meals program, and employment opportunities to ensure their continued ability to participate. As a direct result of this program, seventeen students re-took the MCAS test, and three students were able to earn high school diplomas.
- The New Bedford School Committee created a Drop-Out Prevention office to proactively keep children enrolled in school and initiated programs such as an exit interview program designed to keep students in school.
- The School Department established an Alternative Education Task Force to create alternative educational programs. The Twilight Program at New Bedford High School assigns enrolled students to a supervised community service experience for a minimum of 15 hours per week, with students attending class for three hours later each day. Last school year, 29 students successfully completed the program, and the program has since grown dramatically, with 75 students currently participating. Further planning for alternative ways for students to obtain high school diplomas commenced.

### ***Protecting Children's Health***

- Created a pilot program family health center at Keith Middle School, which we hope will be a model to be implemented at the other middle schools.

- Created an oral health impact project to provide dental services to Mass-Health eligible students at eight elementary schools. In 2007, service will be expanded to include six more schools.

### ***Educational Grants and Awards***

- New Bedford Public Schools and the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center were selected by the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. to participate in the Partnership in Education Institute, which strives to build upon existing partnerships between public schools and the arts community to enhance arts education for our students. We were one of only fourteen school systems selected for participation through a competitive nation-wide search.
- Received “Reading First” grant for a literacy initiative at Carney and Hayden-McFadden, with an “Early Reading First” initiative launched at Gomes. Further, as part of the Reading First initiative, the Ottiwell School received the John Silber Award.
- Received Foster Children’s Advocacy Grant, allowing the school system to complete a database for tracking services to foster children.
- The New Bedford school system was presented with the Partnership Award by the Department of Social Services in recognition of the City’s commitment to improving the child welfare system and those it serves.
- The Irwin Jacobs Foundation made a \$30,000 donation to the Pacheco School and a \$30,000 donation for dropout prevention.
- The Albert Carr Scholarship fund provided \$1 million for scholarships for New Bedford High School students.
- New Bedford Public Schools received a \$16,000 Massachusetts Cultural Council grant for expansion of the arts and professional development for teachers.
- The Department of Education cited New Bedford and Framingham for being model urban school systems.

### ***Creating Educational Partnerships***

- The New Bedford campuses of UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College continue to promote access to a college education to New Bedford residents, and also offer programs to allow New Bedford residents to study for and obtain high school GEDs.
- New Bedford Public Schools partnered with UMass Dartmouth and Bridgewater State College to attract more math and science teachers, as well as to recruit



teachers who reflect the diversity of New Bedford, now in operation at the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School.

- New Bedford Public Schools partnered with UMass Dartmouth to establish a program in which UMass students tutor New Bedford elementary school students. This program is currently in operation at the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School.
- New Bedford Public Schools worked with the Women's Center to provide advocacy and violence prevention counseling to participants in the Parent Teen Program.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Creating Jobs and Opportunities**

### **2006 Overview:**

In 2006, I set a goal for my administration to once again establish New Bedford as one of the pre-eminent economic forces in our State and region. We have significant assets to apply in promoting our city as an attractive location for business and industry to establish, expand and relocate.

In early January of 2006, I outlined the following objectives for my administration:

- Aggressively market our city.
- Support local business expansion and new business opportunities.
- Establish a Grants Office to pursue available Federal/State assistance.
- Assist private business to locate and expand in New Bedford.
- Create a Master Plan for development.
- Promote and support further waterfront development.
- Support improvement of City's valuable infrastructure.
- Support improvement of City's commercial areas.
- Support improvement of City's transportation systems.
- Develop strategic tourism master plan to attract more tourists to our city.
- Establish interactive economic development team to aggressively support and advance economic development projects.

During the past year, we have established a strong foundation from which to promote the City's economic advancement. We have worked to instill the City's economic effort with new and aggressive leadership, targeted key projects for significant economic impact, enhanced our capability to support the economic interests of our valuable waterfront industries, expanded the reach of our tourism promotion effort, and provided financial support to assist our small businesses to expand and create additional jobs.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***Master Plan***

- Initiated Master Planning process, the first in thirty years, to result in a Master Plan presented to the City Council for approval in 2007.
- Signed a memorandum of understanding with Mass Development, the state's largest economic development and planning agency, to assist with coordination of the multiple planning efforts underway and for \$100,000 in additional funds to assist the city with these efforts.
- Conducted six citywide public master plan forums, one in each ward, during July and August of 2006. The main themes to come out of these meetings included:

- Quality of homes & neighborhoods
- Job creation
- Positive shopping & business environments
- An infrastructure system that complements job creation and neighborhood improvement efforts
- A transportation network linking people to the right destinations at the right times
- An educational system that prepares our children for the future
- A safe environment for all residents
- Open space and recreational opportunities throughout New Bedford

These themes are shaping the development of the Master Plan.

- A preliminary report is being prepared for public presentation by the city Planning Department. This report will fuse the Open Space & Recreation Plan, the Traffic Circulation & Parking Plan, the Harbor Master Plan, the Airport Master Plan, the Downtown Plan, and the Mill Overlay Districts, and will provide a cohesive plan for the City to implement over the next decade.
- The Route 18 Study Committee, formed in January of 2006, reinvigorated the planning process for this Route 18 development by crafting a scope of work acceptable to the MassHighway Department, enabling the project to move toward final design and construction in 2008.

### ***Development and Economic Opportunity***

- Established a proactive business friendly philosophy within several key city departments.
- Streamlined permitting process to encourage development.
- Solicited dozens of companies, real estate developers, and investors to showcase the city and demonstrate the support the city can provide through public-private partnerships.
- Held meetings with N-Star – Sprague Oil and nationally renowned planners to formulate a plan for the future of the former NSTAR plant .
- The New Bedford Economic Development Council's small business loan program increased lending by 230% over 2006, resulting in 34 loans totaling \$2,240,270, which leveraged \$18,998,000 in further investment. This created 119 new jobs and retained 30.

- The Economic Development Council's Real Estate Assistance Program assisted 32 business with relocation within New Bedford, positively impacting over 150 employees.
- After receipt of the Inspector General's report on the 2005 Fairhaven Mills Request for Proposals process, I terminated the pre-existing deal for the 6.6-acre city-owned portion of the Fairhaven Mills site, which was to be sold for \$10,000. A new RFP process was initiated, including an open public charette to obtain ideas for re-development of site, with the release of a report documenting those ideas. The City then conducted a \$120,000 clean up of Fairhaven Mills site to include removal of 5 oil storage tanks, and sought funds to remove asbestos from the burned out building. The City issued an RFP to solicit developer proposals, generating two proposals. A public process to evaluate the two proposals has been established.
- Sovereign Bank opened a new call center in downtown New Bedford, hiring approximately 130 new employees. The jobs pay between \$25,000-\$45,000 per year and have full benefits including education tuition reimbursements.
- The Economic Development Council hired Matthew Morrissey as Executive Director.
- Provided assistance to Nutex Industries to financially re-organize and retain 38 jobs; with additional city support, the company successfully emerged from bankruptcy.
- Initiated and completed professional market study that concluded that there is sufficient demand to support 80-100 room hotel in downtown. There are now several hotel developers who are actively considering the City for a hotel site.
- Within the New Bedford Business Park in 2006, three new roads were built, making available 10 new lots (totaling 125 acres) for sale. Several of these lots were immediately sold. The Park acquired a 34-acre lot adjacent to the railroad tracks, which is the first available lot for sale with such access in over thirty years. Further, in the past year, six companies completed the construction of new or expanded facilities. In 2007, we anticipate five companies beginning new construction. By the end of this year, we expect to see the number of jobs in the New Bedford Business Park grow from 4,500 to 5,200.
- Working with state legislators, the lead being Representative Robert Koczera, the City obtained approximately \$500,000 for Elco Dress building demolition as basis for subsequent development. The City has issued an RFP for this 6.5-acre site. Responses are due in April 2007.
- Supported the relocation of the former New Bedford Antiques Center into the near South End in January of 2007.

- Coordinated financing for New England Demolition to move to the South End, contributing to the critical mass of antiques dealers and historic artifacts in that section of the City. This area can become a destination for tourists and collectors.
- Created Office for Resource Development, with the purpose of identifying and prioritizing city needs and aggressively pursuing funding to meet those needs, while training all city departments to effectively write and research grants. Partnering with community organizations throughout New Bedford, this office has successfully pursued the Shannon Anti-Violence Grant and Weed & Seed funding.

### ***Fishing Industry***

- In 2006, New Bedford was once again ranked the top-grossing fishing port in the nation in terms of value of catch, with a total of \$282.5 million in landings in 2005 yielding an estimated \$1.6 billion in benefit to the local economy.
- Early in my administration, I established an Ocean and Fisheries Council, a 54-member body to advise city government on industry needs, chaired by Dr. Brian Rothschild.
- I went to Portland, Maine, and Mystic, Connecticut to attend National Marine Fisheries meetings, and I went to Washington, D.C. for a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration meeting to advocate for the New Bedford fishing industry.
- I went on a 24-hour commercial fishing trip with the New England Director of the National Marine Fisheries to advocate for the New Bedford fishing industry.
- In cooperation with the Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, the New Bedford fishing industry pursued litigation against Framework 42, a set of fishing regulations unfavorable to the industry in Massachusetts and particularly harsh to the Port of New Bedford.
- I spoke before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources regarding reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, requesting flexibility to protect New Bedford fishing families.
- In advocating for the fishing industry, the city industry and government led the effort in partnership with Gloucester to develop and present an alternative fishing stock conservation and management formula known as the “points system.”
- The Fisherman Safety Training program saw 285 fisherman certified in the basic course, with an additional 53 drill conductors trained. I had the benefit of participating in the course.

- The Harbor Development Commission is moving forward with a \$400,000 south terminal fendering project, with construction scheduled to begin in spring of 2007. This project is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Council.
- The Harbor Development Commission began developing a \$50,000 watershed management plan to relieve berthing congestion of fishing vessels within the Port. This project is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Council.
- The Harbor Development Commission began work on the New Bedford Harbor Master Plan, supported by a Seaport Bond Bill of \$150,000.
- New Bedford received \$80,000 in grant funding to assess the economic impact of existing maritime industries and to explore new opportunities.
- The Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation awarded funding to the City to support the inter-modal needs of the Port. New Bedford received a \$116,250 grant for auxiliary power at the State Pier Ferry Terminal and Whales Tooth parking lot. This ensures public safety is not jeopardized in the event of a power outage.
- The Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation awarded \$75,000 to the City to finance a study on the feasibility of ferry service between Woods Hole and New Bedford, which would support a commuter base between the expanding maritime technology centers.
- The Massachusetts Seaport Council awarded the City a grant of \$425,000 for the engineering of Phase III dredging.
- Appointed Kristin Decas, former Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Seaport Council, as new Executive Director of Harbor Development Commission. Ms. Decas has comprehensive knowledge and experience in harbor and economic development.
- In 2006, the State Division of Marine Fisheries relocated 50 marine scientists to New Bedford. The Division is currently in the New Bedford Quest Center.

### ***Tourism Statistics***

- Visits to tourism-related destinations in New Bedford increased 9% in 2006.
- Buttonwood Park Zoo had more visitors than ever before, 197,777, making it the #1 paid city attraction. The Zoo was also selected to host the 2008 Annual Conference of the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians, which will attract a national audience.

- Visits to the Whaling Museum increased by 10%.
- The Zeiterion Theater saw visits increase 39% over the previous year.
- Visits to the Fort Taber Museum increased by 17%.
- The New Bedford Working Waterfront Festival was voted one of the nation's *Top 100 Events for 2007* by the American Business Association.
- New England Fast Ferry service to Martha's Vineyard saw approximately 111,000 customers.
- New England Fast Ferry saw dolley weight freight service double to 60,000 pounds.
- Ferry service "Viking Superstar" was launched to Montauk and Block Island on a trial basis in the summer of 2006.
- New Bedford saw a successful and well-attended "Summer Fest" event with over 25,000 visitors.

### ***Tourism Activity***

- The City conducted a Tourism Summit, attended by 140 people, in March of 2006 to gather ideas to enhance the City's tourism enhancement strategy.
- The Tourism Summit's Marketing group set goals of increasing outreach to I-195 motorists, launching a local pride and education initiative through electronic and print media, and target fast ferry passengers with marketing efforts to increase their time spent in New Bedford.
- As a result of the objectives of the Marketing group, an RFP will be released shortly for construction of two billboards on City property that will be visible to motorists on I-195 and Route 18. These billboards will promote New Bedford destinations to the 56 million motorists who travel these arteries every year. The Office of Tourism & Marketing is working to promote New Bedford through *New Bedford Now & Then*, a new television program on cable access Channel 18, which highlights city history and culture. Historical articles and features have been placed in the *Weekly Compass* and other regional and national publications. Fast Ferry passengers are targeted with print supplements and promotional discounts to New Bedford attractions. Further advertising is planned for Martha's Vineyard for summer 2007.
- The Tourism Summit's Visitor Support group set goals of improving transportation options and parking, enhancing visitor service training programs, and improving directional signage.

- As a result of the Visitor Support group objectives, traffic and parking improvements continue to be discussed between the city, Traffic Commission, Downtown New Bedford Inc., and the National Park Service. The National Park Service has partnered with the City in visitor service training, with the Tourism office publishing and distributing reference guides for volunteers. In partnership with the National Park Service, all directional sign systems in the central business district will be reassessed and revamped during 2007-2008.
- The Tourism Summit's Crime & Grime group set goals of improving litter cleanup, improving vagrancy and perceptions of crime, and improving the parking garages.
- In keeping with Crime & Grime objectives, Operation Clean Sweep continues its work in all neighborhoods of the City, including an ongoing educational anti-litter campaign. The Police Department has increased downtown patrols. The Elm Street Garage will see \$300,000 in improvements through a partnership between the City and the National Park Service.
- The Tourism Summit's Asset Development group set goals of reactivating the Schooner Ernestina, increasing downtown programming, and increasing market funding.
- Corresponding with the Asset Development goals, repairs to the Ernestina continue in 2007, as well as a revitalization of its organizational structure, with the hope that the vessel will see partial active service restored in the 2007 sailing season. Increased downtown programming was realized during the summer of 2006 by AHA!'s Saturdays in the City series and National Park Service Maritime Heritage Days. Additional marketing funding has been proposed for FY08.
- Groundbreaking on the Corson Building occurred in December of 2006, and the Visitor Center will open in the Corson Building in the fall of 2007. Senator Kennedy and Congressman Frank secured \$6,000,000 for the project during the past two Congresses.
- The New Bedford Historical Society completed exterior renovations of the Nathan and Polly Johnson House.
- AHA!, with funding from city, state, and private sources, provided exposure to artistic and cultural attractions in downtown New Bedford free of charge to residents and tourists alike on the second Thursday of every month and expanded the program to include additional events in the summer of 2006.
- Initiated effort to interest Cape Cod Baseball League to establish expansion team in New Bedford. A League game, Wareham vs. Hyannis, was played in the summer of 2006 to demonstrate city interest (1,900 attended). An additional game



has been scheduled in New Bedford for July 13, 2007 and lobbying for an expansion team continues.

### ***Transportation Improvements***

- Preliminarily obtained \$1,000,000 in bonding authority from the City Council, pending Finance Committee approval, for construction of a hanger at the New Bedford Airport for Delta Flight School. Construction of the Delta Flight School hanger is expected to commence in spring of 2007. Further discussions have been held regarding construction of another hanger for Cape Air.
- The New Bedford Airport received \$305,175 in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, including \$92,625 for Airport Layout Plan and \$212,550 for a High Intensity Runway Lighting System.
- I advocated a commuter rail connection from Boston to New Bedford emphasizing that service to the area was critical regardless of route. I requested contemporary data on the Stoughton and Middleboro routes in order to determine the most cost-effective and expeditious way to obtain rail service.
- Plans to improve several roadways in the North End were formulated in 2006, and Mass Highway will accept bids for the Acushnet Avenue Reconstruction Project in February 2007.

### ***Workforce Investment***

- Greater New Bedford Career Center services and programs reached 7,067 New Bedford job seekers and 10,095 job seekers in total, of whom 1,339 New Bedford job seekers entered employment and 1,940 job seekers entered employment in total.
- In 2006, the Career Center received over 45,000 visits.
- The Greater New Bedford Career Center assisted 329 New Bedford employers and 633 area employers in total in finding qualified job applicants.
- 378 New Bedford youth, and 461 youth in total, participated in Career Center and New Directions programming.
- New Directions worked with area employers to establish over 500 internship opportunities for City youth.

## **TOWARD A STRONGER NEW BEDFORD: Building a Sense of Community**

### **2006 Overview:**

Finally, I indicated in my Inaugural Address that our efforts to make our city safe, prepare our children for the challenges of the future, create more and better job opportunities, and restore the vitality of our neighborhoods “will only be successful and sustaining if they are constructed upon a solid foundation – a strong unshakeable sense of community”. To be successful in this regard, I indicated that the following objectives would guide my administration in its effort to re-establish a collaborative spirit where the people of New Bedford are once again included in the course we chart to direct our City’s development.

- Re-establish trust in city government.
- Conduct an open decision-making process.
- Value each other’s ideas once again.
- Initiate master planning process.

Initiating this effort in December 2005 before I assumed office, with the Great Ideas Forums, and then continuing this effort during 2006, I believe that we have made a significant start in building the type of inclusive community our city must be. My administration has made a concerted effort to directly engage hundreds of people to contribute their energy and ideas to address such issues as the needs of the fishing industry, selection of leadership of our Police Department, the development of community facilities, the review of the environmental safety of Keith Middle School, and a long needed master planning process to guide our city’s growth and development into the future.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***Building Relationships and Opening Up City Hall***

- Forged solid relationship with clergy and churches to work on the problems of the neighborhoods.
- Working with clergy, began planning to open a homeless day shelter in New Bedford.
- To emphasize the value of non-violence, arranged visit by civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis, participated in and supported a week of peace marches, and participated in Martin Luther King Day ceremonies.
- The Youth Great Ideas Forum was held in April, leading to the creation of the Mayor’s Summer Youth Volunteer Program.

- Conducted public process to assist in selection of new Police Chief and 2 Deputy Chiefs.
- Renovated former Mayor's Office for use as Charles S. Ashley Citizens Center, an open meeting space available to any citizen group that requests its use. Renovated Brooker meeting room on the third floor of City Hall; this room is also available for public meetings.
- Instituted constituent night on Thursdays, during which any resident who wishes to secure an appointment with the mayor is able to do so.
- Established monthly meetings with the New Bedford legislative delegation.
- Secured the participation of Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey, Deval Patrick, Christy Mihos, and Grace Ross in a gubernatorial candidates forum sponsored by the South Coast Alliance focused on regional issues. The forum, held at UMass Dartmouth, was the last meeting of the candidates before the election.
- Participated in Governor-Elect Deval Patrick's Local Government working group during the transition period, hosting one of five state-wide public forums to solicit citizen ideas and input for the Patrick Administration. New Bedford also hosted meetings of the Economic Development and Human Services working groups.
- Cable Access increased coverage of city events and Government Access produced 33% more original programming from 2005 to 2006.
- The City supported cultural events honoring diversity, including flag raisings for countries from around the globe, varied religious, cultural, and recreational festivals, holiday parades, and ceremonial events celebrating the strength of all of New Bedford's communities.

### ***Opening the Decision-Making Process to the Public***

- Portuguese Cultural Center (\$500,000 grant) –recaptured \$300,000 payment for option on 2-acre site and land strip to extend Dunbar Street through site. Appointed 63- member committee to study location and construction for new center (to house Casa Library, office space, and exhibit space). Developed RFP for 2-acre site to obtain seller interest. Clark's Cove Development re-submitted proposal. The response did not meet the criteria of the RFP and was rejected. The City will continue to work with the Committee to find an appropriate site that will be in the taxpayers' interest.
- Youth Community Center (\$1,000,000 grant) –designated New Bedford ACTS to sponsor public forums to obtain public input regarding development of center. New Bedford ACTS conducted the forum and issued recommendations.

- Created 54 member Ocean/Fisheries Council to advise on Framework 42 fishing regulations harvesting of scallops, re-use of former N Star power plant and other waterfront issues. Named Dr. Brian Rothschild as Senior Policy Advisor to develop city's fisheries and marine industries and oversee waterfront development.

### ***Community Participation in Public Health Decisions***

- Withheld authorization from the Board of Health to initiate water fluoridation, held several community input sessions on fluoridation, and supported a public referendum on the issue. Began planning of oral health program for children, which will include the distribution of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss to city children, as well as fluoride rinse and pills with parental permission. Worked with School Committee and School Department to remove unhealthy snacks and soda from schools.
- A November referendum was adopted to add fluoride to the City's water supply. Fluoridation began in January 2007.

### ***Voting and Elections***

- In November of 2006, 24,100 New Bedford residents participated in the election, out of 52,000 registered voters.
- The Elections Department, under a new state law, was able to hire high school students as poll workers during the November election, teaching them about the voting process and civic engagement while relieving a shortage of poll workers.
- Under the Help America Vote Act, New Bedford was a test community for handicapped accessible voting machines.

*In 2006, the following individuals served the people of New Bedford:*

Governor Mitt Romney  
 Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin  
 Auditor A. Joseph DeNucci  
 Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill  
 Governor's Councilor Carole A. Fiola

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
 Senator John F. Kerry  
 Congressman Barney Frank

District Attorney Paul F. Walsh, Jr.

State Senator Mark C. Montigny  
 State Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral  
 State Representative Stephen R. Canessa  
 State Representative Robert M. Koczera  
 State Representative John F. Quinn

Mayor Scott W. Lang

New Bedford City Council

Ward One City Councilor Linda M. Morad  
 Ward Two City Councilor Paul Koczera  
 Ward Three City Councilor Joe F. DeMedeiros  
 Ward Four City Councilor Viola Pina  
 Ward 5 City Councilor Jane L. Gonsalves  
 Ward 6 City Councilor Leo R. Pimental  
 Councilor-At-Large David Alves  
 Councilor-At-Large Debora Coelho  
 Councilor-At-Large Brian K. Gomes  
 Councilor-At-Large Denis Lawrence, Jr.  
 Councilor-At-Large John T. Saunders

New Bedford School Committee

Mayor Scott W. Lang  
 Atty. J. Mark Treadup  
 Jack Nobrega Dr. John Fletcher  
 Ramona Silva Nancy A. Feeney  
 Eric Pope

Assessors

Marty Treadup  
 Peter E. Berthiaume  
 Robert Pacheco

*The November 2006 election yielded:*

*Deval L. Patrick, Governor-Elect*  
*Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor-Elect*  
*Attorney General Martha Coakley*

*C. Samuel Sutter, District Attorney*